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## (54) Symbol entry systems and methods

(57) A symbol entry system includes a graphical display surface (33), a handheld remote command unit (36), and a symbol entry tool (50) displayed on the graphical display surface. The symbol entry tool includes a symbol entry region (35) and a symbol chart at least partially surrounding the symbol entry region. The symbol chart shows a plurality of symbols. A visible focus is responsive to commands given by the user through the handheld remote command unit, so that a user can move the focus to a particular symbol in the symbol chart and select such a symbol for entry in the symbol entry region. Only a subset of the symbols are visible on the graphical display surface at any particular time. Generally, the subset includes those symbols nearest the current position of the focus.

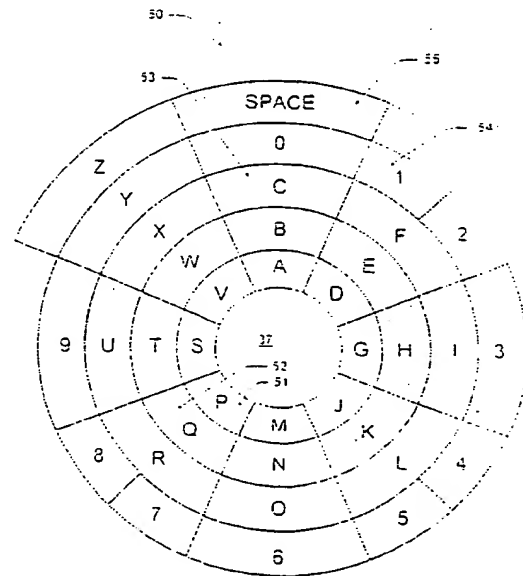


Fig. 6



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 98 30 0962

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim
Y	US 5 543 818 A (SCOTT ED) 6 August 1996.  * column 1, line 19 - line 28: figure 1 * * column 3, line 18 - line 40 * -----	9, 19, 20, 31-33, 39, 41, 48, 49, 51
A	"EXPANDABLE TARGETS FOR EFFICIENT SELECTION VIA A SCREEN CURSOR" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 35, no. 3, 1 August 1992, pages 438-439, XP000326335 -----	
		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	10 July 1998	Bailas, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone  Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category  A : technological background  O : non-written disclosure  P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention  E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  O : document cited in the application  L : document cited for other reasons  3 : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>		

EP0 FORM 1500 (01/82) (Pat.Off.)